UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

CLCS

COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

Distr.
GENERAL

CLCS/13
18 May 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifth session
New York, 3-14 May 1999

LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ADDRESSED TO THE LEGAL COUNSEL, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS

As you are aware, annex II to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS/3/Rev.2) provides that a coastal State may classify data or other material included in its submission to the Commission as confidential. Rule 4 of that annex also stipulates that members of the Commission have a duty not to disclose any confidential information obtained in the course of their duties as members of the Commission, either during or after their service with the Commission. According to rule 5, the Secretary-General shall provide the Commission with all necessary assistance in enforcing the rules concerning confidentiality, and the Commission may institute appropriate proceedings in case of an alleged breach of confidentiality on the part of a m ber of the Commission.

At its fourth session (31 August-4 September 1998), the Commission decided to seek the legal opinion of the Legal Counsel as to which procedure would be the most appropriate in cases where it might be necessary to institute proceedings following an alleged breach of confidentiality. The Commission would be most grateful if you would provide it with a legal opinion on this matter.

Yuri B. KAZMIN
Chairman of the Commission
on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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